qualifications, residence, income, multiple dealership norms etc. Selection of eligible candidates is made by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under:—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ ST)	—25%
Physicaly Handicapped Persons (PH)	—5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	—8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	—8%
Freedom fighters (FF)	—2%
Outstanding Sprotspersons (OSP)	—2%
Open (O)	—50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/ distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal, Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

Oil Companies Investment in Gail

1034. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC and ONGC propose to invest in GAIL equity; and

(b) if so, the strategy behind the move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir, through purchase of a part of Government held equity in GAIL.

(b) The alliance between IOC, ONGC and GAIL through equity participation in each other can provide synergic advantage to these companies, enhance their competitiveness and give them greater levaraging capacity.

Utilisation of Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat

1035. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how do ONGC (ERBC) and OIL (Duliajan) utilise Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat for their industrial research work; and

(b) wheather it is fact that ONGC (ERBC) and OIL (Duliajan) prefer R.R.L. at Dehradun to R.R.L. at Jorhat; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) ONGC and OIL are utilising consultancy services from RRL at Jorhat for their various industrial project research work like Bio-remediation of crude oil sludge, soil investigation, geotechnical investigation for effluent treatment plant, impact of gas flaring on paddy, tea etc., development of polymer drilling additives, development of timber substitutes, geo-microbiological property, development of flow improvers for high wax crude etc. The analytical facilities are also utilised for different analytical requirements.

(b) There is no RRL at Dehradun. However, depending upon the nature of requirements, projects for which necessary infrastructure is not available with RRL, Jorhat, are referred to Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun for study.

Royalty for crude

1036. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long pending demand from the Government of Gujarat for revision of royalty for crude;

(b) what action has been taken on that; and